Exports from India

1564. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports from India during the eleven months ending February 29, 1988 went up by 24 per cent in rupee terms over the corresponding period of 1986-87;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what has been the trade gap during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) According to the provisional trade statistics, India's exports during the first eleven months of the fiscal year (April—February) 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 13939.04 crores, as compared to Rs. 11243.66 crores during April—February 1986-87, thereby showing an increase of 24.0 per cent.

(c) The trade deficit during April-February 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 5940.82 crores, which is less by Rs. 720.51 crores or by 10.8 per cent as compared to the trade deficit of Rs. 661.33 crores during April-February 1986-87.

Registered exporters of Cardamom, Cashew/Nut and Spices

1565. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the 100 per cent exporters of cardamom, cashewnut and spices registered with the Ministry and the names of the countries to which they are exporting as on 31st March, 1988; and

(b) what are the conditions of remittances of foreign exchange imposed on these exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Under the 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit Scheme, so far no unit has been approved for producing and exporting cardamoms, cashewnut and spices.

(b) Does not arise.

Housing Development Scheme of Financial Institutions and Banks

1566. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the financial institutions and the nationalised banks which have formulated housing development schemes so far;

(b) what are the details of each scheme;

(c) what is the total amount released by each Financial institution and bank under these schemes so far; and

(d) what is the estimated targets under these schemes by each institution and bank during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and to the extent feasible under the rules, will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Closure of Textile Mills

1567. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cotton textile mills which are lying closed in each State as on date;

(b) what are the names of these mills alongwith the total number of workers affected thereby;

(c) what is the number of mills taken over by Government during the last

three years giving the names of the mills, the number of workers affected and the States in which they are located; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to meet this crisis in textiles industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) A statement is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 58].

(c) The Union Government have not taken over any textile mills in the last three years.

(d) Government have constituted a Nodal Agency which prepares and manages rehabilitation packages for those sick textile mills found by it to be viable. A Textile Modernisation Fund has been created to meet the modernisation needs of weak but viable units. A Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has also been set up under the Sick Industrial Companies Act to consider the cases of sick textile companies.

Import of Rubber

1568. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what quantum of rubber was imported by Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how many memoranda Government have received on this issue during this period;

(c) how many memoranda were in favour of importing and how many were against it; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure that the prices of natural rubber will not fall in the market and also the increase in production will not be contained ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Import of Natural Rubber by the Government during the last three years were as under :

YEAR	QTY/MTs
1985-86	385338
1986-87	40228
1987-88	41991

(b) and (c) From time to time Government has received Memoranda from various growers and manufacturers' associations. While the growers are usually against the import of Rubber, the manufacturers are in favour of importing it to fill the gap between demand and supply.

(d) In order to maintain the prices of natural rubber at reasonable level which is remunerative to growers, the Demand-Supply position is reviewed periodically. The gap between demand and supply is met through imports. The imported rubber is released to the user industry in such a manner so as to stabilise the prices of natural rubber within the prescribed limits.

Measures taken to increase the production of natural rubber are as under :—

(1) Grant of Financial Assistance for new planting and re-planting under Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.

(2) Distribution of high yielding planting materials.

(3) Free Advisory service on all aspects of cultivation, production and processing of Rubber.

(4) Encouraging group processing and marketing.

(5) Undertaking research on all aspects of cultivation, production and processing.

(6) Expansion of rubber cultivation in non-traditional areas by providing infrastructure in the region.